

WHILTON WINTER NEWSLETTER



Snow at Whilton Lodge in February 2009

December 2019

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February 2020



December 2019

Editors' letter



So much is happening in the run up to Christmas, many parts of which are becoming a Christmas tradition in the village, including the Warbler's Concert, Christmas Tree Festival, Christmas Lights at the church, Village Carol singing and Christmas Day church service.

Some thoughts about Christmas traditions. Did you know that the date of Christmas Day was fixed at 25 December in the fourth century?

Advent starts on Sunday 1 December and ends on 24 December and is observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. These days we probably know this best with our Advent calendars but one of the first mentions of an Advent calendar was not until 1851 in a children's book by Elise Averdieck. In the story, a little girl named Elisabeth listens to part of the Christmas story each day in December. She sings Christmas carols and puts a picture on her wallpaper. Once she has twenty-four pictures on the wall, she knows Christmas has finally arrived.

In our family we have an annual screening of Muppet Christmas Carol on Christmas Eve. When Dickens published his book in 1843 he captured much of the Victorian revival of the Christmas holiday. He inspired several aspects of Christmas, including family gatherings, seasonal food and drink, dancing, games and a festive generosity of spirit.

Certainly the Victorians have a lot of input to what we recognise today with Christmas trees introduced to this country in the 1840s by Prince Albert, the first Christmas Card in 1843 and of course Christmas crackers also introduced in the 1840s.

One of our other family traditions is to read The Night Before Christmas to the children. This poem was first published in 1837 and introduced Saint Nicholas with eight reindeer (Rudolph came much later!) delivering presents down the chimney. Santa in a red coat with a white beard is a much later version and although some claim he was invented in Coca Cola adverts, they were using images actually first drawn in the early 1900's.

*The Editors wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
"Happy Christmas to All and to all a good night"*

CURRENT NEWS AND ISSUES FROM YOUR WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL.

- **Broadband.** To try and keep up with all the delays and changes with this seems to have become a standing agenda item at the Parish Council meetings. Gigaclear will be bringing superfast fibre broadband to Whilton and Whilton Locks eventually. Following a short delay, they are currently installing the network across Brington, where residents have already started to connect in. In mid-December, Gigaclear will install the network infrastructure along Brington Lane towards Whilton, and from Norton towards Whilton Locks. The Parish is then planned to be connected to the Gigaclear network in early 2020. To get the latest information, the key websites are:
 - www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net. This team are responsible for the overall roll out of superfast fibre broadband across Northamptonshire, which will include Whilton and Whilton Locks.
 - www.gigaclear.com. This company are responsible for building the network and installing the broadband to your home. The website also details the broadband packages that will be offered, with speeds from 50Mbps up to 1000Mbps. Note that the speed you pay for with Gigaclear will be the speed you get, unlike BT and other such companies who quote a theoretical 'up to' speed.
- The fibre optic network will be entirely separate to any BT network, and be run to each household who choose to be connected to the network.
- During the installation phase, the Gigaclear marketing team will do a presentation to the Parish, with special offers being made available if you sign up on the night etc. Dates TBC.
- **Gigaclear Discount Code.** This discount offer appears to have quietly come out through social media, but I have then checked directly with the Gigaclear who have informed me that it is correct. You need to register your details at www.rural.gigaclear.com and you will then be sent a code which can be used to get the first month's contract free when you sign up online for a broadband connection with Gigaclear.
- **Speed Limit – Whilton Locks.** Last year, the Parish Council managed to get the speed limit through Whilton Locks reduced to 40mph. But recent 'near miss incidents' at both bridges have indicated that we should try to reduce the speed limit further to 30mph, and this is backed up by the 30mph speed limits already in place through Norton, Flore and Nobottle on their main roads. Hence the Parish Council are currently working with the Northamptonshire County Council to determine if this can be done.
- **Parking on Main Street, Whilton.** This road through Whilton is obviously narrow, a factor not helped by the lack of residents' parking, causing individuals to park down one side of the road, which in turn makes the passage even narrower. The narrower passage then creates issues for larger vehicles trying to get through – oil delivery trucks, rubbish collection, deliveries and emergency vehicles. Hence, it is vital that all residents who do park their vehicles along Main Street do so in a considerate manner to ensure that all vehicles who need to use the route can do so safely.

- **Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) Service.** The 3-month trial of a DACT bus service through Brington and Whilton to either Daventry or Northampton has proved to be very successful and well supported. Those who have used the service have been asked to complete feedback forms to allow the Parish Councils to gauge their thoughts on the service, and determine if it would be viable to continue the service beyond the end of the trial in December 2019. Once the trial completes, the Parish Councils of Brington and Whilton will discuss the feedback and determine if continuation can be financially viable. A decision of the continuation of the service is expected early in the new year.
- **Long Buckby Library.** Some of you may be aware that Long Buckby have had a library established for some while, and they are now looking to expand it with new ventures and features. The library has approached a number of Parish Councils in the area for possible funding donations, and as the library is local to us, and it is used by residents from the Whilton Parish, we have decided to make a one off donation of £250 to the library. This should hopefully enhance the facilities further for the benefit of the residents of local Parishes, included those of Whilton.
- **Parish Council Committee Members.** Ever thought of becoming a Parish Council member and becoming involved with making decisions that influence and benefit the Parish? In May 2020, the next round of local elections will take place, which will also include elections for the Whilton Parish Council members. Hence, if you are interested in putting yourself forward for election, or want to know more about what is involved, please contact the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.
- **Footpath Obstructions from Overhanging Trees.** It has been brought to our attention that some of the footpaths around the Parish, particularly in Whilton village are becoming partially blocked by overhanging trees and foliage, forcing pedestrians to move out into the road in order to get by. As a timely reminder, it is the responsibility of the resident land or property owner to ensure that any trees or foliage on their property that are causing obstructions to footpaths are trimmed back and cleaned up as required in order to ensure the safety of pedestrians using the paths around them.
- **Whilton Litter Pick.** The next Whilton Litter Pick will commence at 1000 on Saturday 7 December 2019, meeting at the phone box on The Green in Whilton. Full equipment is provided and the event normally lasts a couple of hours. It is quite a social event that is open to all, and hence, anyone who can spare a couple of hours to help keep the village clean would be most welcome and appreciated.
- **Defibrillators.** There are 2 defibrillators located within the Parish - in Whilton (by the Village Hall) and Whilton Locks (next to the BT phone box on the canal bridge). Each cabinet is locked with a code, which can be obtained from the emergency services when you dial 999 should they be required.

- **Whilton and Whilton Locks E-Mail Distribution List.** *The Parish e-mail distribution list continues to grow apace, with more and more people asking to be included so that they can be kept informed of the latest issues and information concerning the Parish. Previous issues notified have included thefts in the area, suspicious activities and planned road closures. If you are interested in being added to the list for the Parish to find out what is going on in the Parish, please send your e-mail address to clerk@whiltonpc.co.uk.*
- **Whilton Parish Council Website.** The Whilton Parish Council also do have a website at <http://www.parish-council.com/whilton/> which details all the work that they are doing for the community, together with any notices of interest for the Parish. There are also details of who your councillors are, and how to contact them about any matters relating to the Parish. Of note, the e-mail address is councillors@whiltonpc.co.uk. **The Council also hold a regular meeting in the Whilton Village Hall every 2 months, which is open to the public to attend and raise any issues.**

Finally, on behalf of your Parish Council, let me wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful new year.

Randal Smith
 Rose Briar
 Chair of the Whilton Parish Council

30 years ago Whilton Women's Institute had a speaker from the Northampton Medieval Society. He gave them a seasonal recipe, which may give a medieval flavour to a meal. You may like to try it.



Here is the recipe:

CINNAMON AND BREAD SAUCE

Ingredients

- 2 thick slices brown bread
- 2 fluid oz vinegar poured onto a dinner plate.
- ½ teaspoon of cinnamon
- Salt and pepper

Method

1. Sprinkle the cinnamon into the vinegar.
2. Toast the bread and soak for 5 minutes in the vinegar.
3. Put in a liquidizer with the salt and pepper and blend until smooth.
4. Serve as a sauce with game, roast chicken, veal or lamb



Letter from the Rector



Dear Reader,

By the time this edition lands on your doormat, the world around us will be gearing up for Christmas. Many of us will have “to do lists” in preparation for the big day, and the media will be busy telling us of all the things we must buy, must have to create a magical day.

The run up to Christmas can feel very pressurised and we can be relieved when we finally make it to Christmas Day and all the preparations are over. The church offers us a different way of doing things.

We use Advent as a time for slowing down, it is a penitential season and that means that we strip away the decorations in our church buildings, we don't have any flowers and our focus is on our relationship with God, our lives, as we prepare to welcome afresh the light of Christ into our hearts.

The world will tell you Christmas is coming hurry up, get everything done. The message from the church is quite different, Christmas is coming, stop, slow down.

When the big day finally arrives, the wrapping paper is torn off, the turkey eaten, but that's not it for another year, no it is just the start, because the true meaning of the day is that God so loves this world, so loves you, that he sent his Son to be born into the poverty and mess of this world to show us another way. His love is the ultimate gift that keeps on giving, couldn't we all do with that in our lives?

We have many services on offer across the benefice why not come and join us and enter into a different way of approaching Christmas this year? We would love to see you, come join us and discover the real meaning of Christmas that's wrapped up in a babe in a manger.

May the blessings of this season be with you.

Rev Andrea Watkins.

CAROL SINGING

Whilton Carol Singers will be singing round the village on the evening of Tuesday 17th December (weather permitting).

Please remember to listen out for them.



NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

December will be a busy time for us. We are once again holding our Christmas Tree Festival. For those of you who may not have come across this before, we invite the village groups to each decorate a Christmas Tree in the church. It is a good way of strengthening the links between the Church and the Village.

In recent years we have seen many creative and colourful designs and we look forward to the display this year.



The trees will in church from Saturday 14 December and we will launch the Festival with coffee and cake in church from 11.00. Do come along to join us.

The trees will also be a feature of our Carol Service at 6.00 on Sunday 15 December. A traditional service with carols and readings will give you all a chance to join in the Christmas celebrations and get your Christmas off to a good start with some fizz and nibbles afterwards.

On the 18th we are hosting the Pre-School at 10.30. The children will be singing Christmas songs and telling the Nativity Story. You are welcome to attend. On Christmas Day our service will be Christmas Worship for All at 9.15. This will be a simple and short service and we look forward to welcoming you. I know that 9.15 is an early start but the timings are linked in to other services in the Benefice and our clergy team can only be in one place at once!. An early start then frees up your day for all the many other things that you will have to do (including opening presents, helping with the Christmas lunch, eating too much etc, etc).

Once again we will be lighting the exterior of the building during the Christmas period. I know that a good number of you like to see the lights and we are looking for your sponsorship to enable this to happen. This gives you an opportunity to mark a special day or perhaps a special memory of a loved one. The cost is £10 and if you would like to take part, let me know.

I can be contacted on 843380 or by email Jbrierley1@aol.com.
Jon Brierley and Linda Treacy Churchwardens

ST ANDREWS 2019 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



This year we are once again giving you the opportunity to illuminate the Church and make it a focal point of the village during the Christmas period. Cost is just £10 a night.

To reserve your special day or to select a date, please contact Jon Brierley (843380) or Jbrierley1@aol.com

11 DECEMBER	JON AND HELEN BRIERLEY
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Eddi's Service (A.D. 687) by Rudyard Kipling
(A favourite Christmas poem of Teresa Leadbetter)

EDDI, priest of St. Wilfrid
In his chapel at Manhood End,
Ordered a midnight service
For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping
Christmas,
And the night was stormy as well.
Nobody came to service,
Though Eddi rang the bell.

'Wicked weather for walking,'
Said Eddi of Manhood End.
'But I must go on with the service
For such as care to attend.

The altar-lamps were lighted, –
An old marsh-donkey came,
Bold as a guest invited,
And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,
The water splashed on the floor,
And a wet, yoke-weary bullock
Pushed in through the open door.

'How do I know what is greatest,
How do I know what is least?
That is My Father's business,'
Said Eddi, Wilfrid's priest.

'But – three are gathered together –
Listen to me and attend.
I bring good news, my brethren!'
Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger
And a Stall in Bethlehem,
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,
That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the
chancel,
They listened and never stirred,
While, just as though they were Bishops,
Eddi preached them The Word,

Till the gale blew off on the marshes
And the windows showed the day,
And the Ox and the Ass together
Wheeled and clattered away.



And when the Saxons mocked him,
Said Eddi of Manhood End,
'I dare not shut His chapel
On such as care to attend.'



WHILTON VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB 2019/2020

AUGUST 2019

1 ST PRIZE	A Clarke	144
2 ND PRIZE	A Welch	055

SEPT 2019

1 ST PRIZE	S Hanslip	098
2 ND PRIZE	M Clements	033

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

SOCIAL LUNCHES –

TUESDAY, 1ST OCTOBER 2019

Although the weather had been unsettled for several days, the day was dry and calm when we arrived at the hall.

However, whilst we were eating, it started to thunder and rain followed with high winds. This did not put us off in any way from enjoying the delicious beef casserole which was perfect for autumn. We followed this with our usual selection of desserts: - pear pudding, rice pudding, apple flan crumble, stewed plums and ice cream. They were much enjoyed, some in a mix and match way and second helpings (at least) were served. We prided ourselves this time on the fact that all the fruit used was grown in Whilton. We can't take credit for the rice however! YET.

Coffee and tea were served and this time the chocolates were provided by Sally and Roger Toone who were celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

**Please note that the next Social Lunch will be on
Tuesday 10th December
in the village hall at 12.30 for 1 pm**



You are very welcome to come and join us.

The Spring Social Lunch will be on 3 March 2020.

FROM HOLLY TREES TO SNOWY HOOKS A wintry tale of names



At the Gardeners Association in October, the speaker, Andrew Sankey, talked about the symbolism of some of our cottage plants. Among them was the holly.

From ancient times the holly was seen as a protective tree, guarding against the evil eye and wicked fairies. Christians made use of its different facets, using the sharp prickly leaves to represent the crown of thorns, the red berries signifying Jesus' blood and the white flowers the purity of Mary. The Christmas carol, "The holly and the ivy" has very ancient, possibly medieval, roots and may originate in pre-Christian times.

Because of its positive associations, it was common to plant a holly tree in cottage gardens, or to include one in your hedge. Our speaker commented how many villages have a Holly Cottage.

Whilton has both a Holly Cottage and a Holly House, but in Whilton's case neither name has ancient roots.

For most of its life Holly Cottage had no name, but when houses in the village began to acquire names in the early 20th century, it was called "End Cottage", being self-explanatory. Later, the Watsons who had spent some time in west Africa, renamed it Kunda Cottage (kunda meaning cottage). In this century it has become Holly Cottage.



A watercolour of Holly House and Holly Cottage, then Kunda Cottage, painted in 1975 by Frances Drake of Holly House.

Holly House, which is opposite, is one of the few houses in the village which has had a name for centuries, but sometime in the mid 19th century its original name was abandoned or forgotten.

When Elisha Redgrave and his wife lived there in late Victorian times they re-named it "Holly House", probably because of the holly tree in the garden.

The Redgraves were new to the village and would not have known its history. Perhaps they thought the older name no longer applied. Perhaps no one remembered it by then. However, recently I have discovered that the old name of this house was the "White Hall". The name dates from before the new taller extension was added, and so this suggests the lower end of Holly House was once white. Maybe it was originally whitewashed cob.

The large field behind Holly House and Brington Lane was once known as Hall Field, and so may have been an enclosure attached to this house or the main manor house in the middle ages. By differentiating it as the "white" hall the name suggests there were once two "halls" in Whilton. We understand that the original manor house or hall stood in Wadd Close beside the church, and so the White Hall must have been an additional lesser hall. The term has many meanings, but here it probably means a significant house within the village, not necessarily very large.

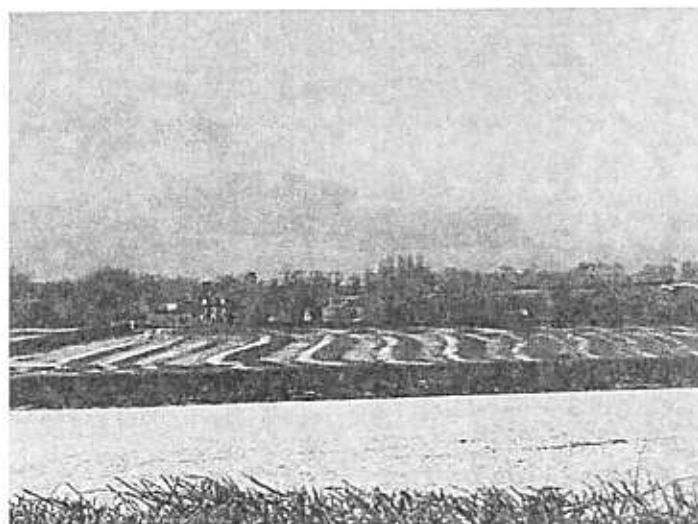
Most of the village houses had an enclosure in medieval times. Here villagers kept a pig, poultry and sometimes a cow, besides growing vegetables. The householders were allotted strips in the open fields, which were farmed under communal, manorial rules. In this area the strips were called lands. Some strips were not straight, but ended in a distinctive curve, known as a hook. The hooks were made over many years, when the plough was pulled by a team of several oxen, which created the curves as they turned. In later years, when mainly horses pulled the plough, the hooks became less pronounced.

After the Black Death in the mid 14th century, when it is estimated at least half the population died, there were not enough labourers to farm as before, and often a group of lands was amalgamated under one manorial tenant.

There are records from the 1600s and 1700s of a group of hooks known as Whittle Hooks or Whit Hull Hooks. This name had puzzled me for years, but these must surely be the hooks belonging to White Hall or "White Hal" as written in 1500.

We cannot be sure where they were, but a snowy photograph taken in about 2000 may give us a clue.

Anthea Hiscock



Whilton Allotment Gardens Vacancy

Another half plot has become available for immediate occupancy . Despite going into the Winter months, now is a good time for preparing and planning for the Spring.

If you would like to enjoy allotment style gardening immediately and enjoy being outside, producing vegetables and fruit with support and encouragement from existing plot holders, now is the time to start.

Please contact Brian Melling at brianmelling47@gmail.com for more information.

Plot fees are very reasonable at £12 for the rental plus insurance and membership of the National Association.

WHILTON ALLOTMENT GARDENS - WINTER 2019

There are still 14 half plots at Whilton Allotment Gardens and all bar one are taken up and paid for.

It was in June 2016 that Whilton Allotment Group became formally constituted and was recognised by Whilton Parish Council later that year as the official organisation to manage and administer the plots. We have come a long way together since then and we are very grateful for the major change of ownership undertaken by our Councillors on behalf of the village. This amenity, as I wrote previously, provides a public space to exercise and develop in.



All folk in the parish are welcome to come onto the plots and view our efforts from time to time and maybe, by sitting on the bench provided, breathe and reflect on the meaning of life !
You might need your thermals, gloves and a woolly hat.

The Brington and Whilton Pre School have made great strides in making their half plot even more welcoming and attractive for their very young gardeners. The apple trees were in full blossom in the Spring, producing beautiful red apples in late Summer and Daniel's willow edging, planted last year has all taken root. The willow 'cave' has been refurbished and should look good by the early Summer of 2020. Several allotment holders who would be too embarrassed to be singled out for praise make a large contribution in keeping the common areas well managed by strimming, mowing and weeding.

Most plots have been tidied up for the Winter in the expectation of frosty days and nights which should help break up the soil and reduce the slug population.

Please visit the Allotment Gardens and give feedback to members of Whilton Allotment Group or your Parish Councillors.

Brian Melling
Chair
WAG
November 2019



WHILTON GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION



The speaker at our October meeting was Andrew Sankey, from Cambridge, who talked about 'The history of the Cottage Garden'. Andrew explained how the chocolate-box image of a white painted cottage with a flower-filled front garden, so loved by American tourists, was a relatively modern phenomenon.

The origins of the cottage garden, in fact, date back to medieval times when the need for self-sufficiency drove the peasant farmer to erect a paling fence around his hovel and grow as much of his own food as possible within this enclosure. These early cottage gardens would probably include a hen house, a pigsty and a beehive. Vegetables would be grown in raised beds and there would be a profusion of herbs which were grown for cooking, for medicinal purposes and for strewing on the stone or earthen floor of the hovel. Some of these herbs could have quite attractive flowers, such as hollyhocks, which were grown as a wound dressing. However, it was not until the Victorian era that flowers grown purely for ornamental purposes became the norm and the cottage garden evolved into a style.

Andrew had dispensed with screen and projector in favour of an easel and hand-drawn sketches which seemed much more appropriate in the context of his talk.

Our next meeting will be our members' Christmas Social on December 4th.

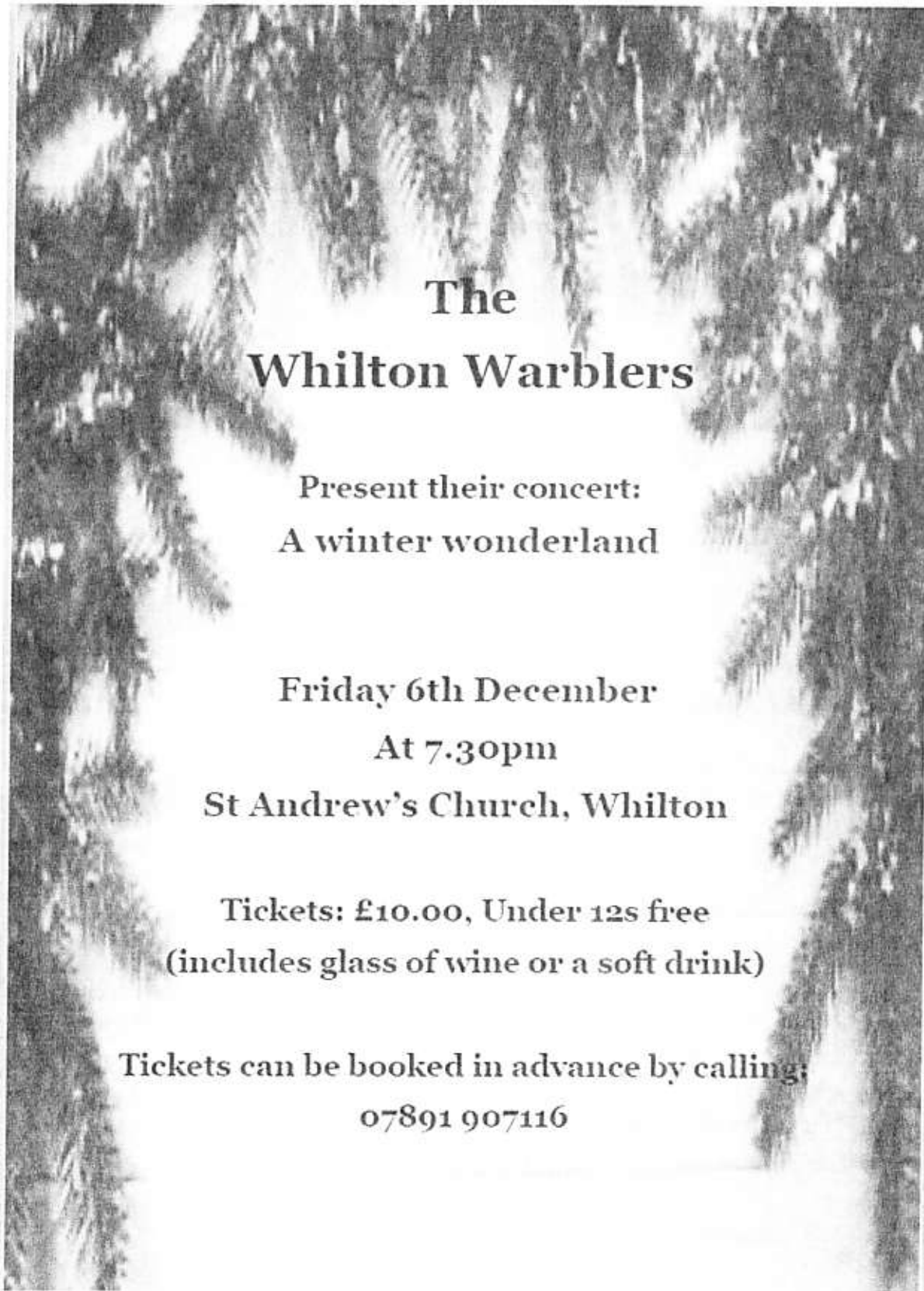
We are currently planning our 2020 programme which will begin with our AGM and quiz on February 5th. This is when we collect the subscriptions for the coming year and is an ideal opportunity for new members to join. Annual subscriptions remain at £15 per head.

BELL RINGING



Whilton Bell Ringers continue to meet on Monday evenings and we are always keen for anyone who would like to 'have a go' to understand what ringing is all about and whether they would like to learn. It is an art that provides physical and mental stimulation to those that ring. Initially the challenge is one of physical coordination to 'control' the bell. Once this is mastered, then the art progresses to ringing 'methods' or 'patterns' with fellow ringers as part of a team.

Contact Justin Baker 844263 or Janet Bowers 842851



**The
Whilton Warblers**

**Present their concert:
A winter wonderland**

Friday 6th December

At 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Whilton

**Tickets: £10.00, Under 12s free
(includes glass of wine or a soft drink)**

**Tickets can be booked in advance by calling:
07891 907116**

Aperture Photography Group

How long does it take to learn photography? I've been asked that a lot and the answer to the question is how long do you want it to take?

There are many ways to learn photography. You can go to college, night school or university. You can watch videos, read books, go on workshops. You could read books and teach yourself, which is actually how I learnt photography.

Photography is a blend of creativity and technical disciplines. You have the creative idea and use the technical skills to bring them to life through the camera. So your personal aptitude for different skills is a factor. Some of us can take on technical learning very quickly. With photography, these mostly involve juggling with basic physics. But you might struggle with lighting and composition.

Even the creative aspects of photography have elements of geometry embedded in them. For example the angle you shoot from. High, low, a bit to the left or right. All of these have an impact on composition, how you arrange the elements together in the viewfinder. If you are naturally creative and instinctively know what light works for which subject, colours that work together and composition is - well, obvious! You might find it hard to grasp technical things like exposure for example.

The second part of the answer is- you never will learn photography because there is always more to learn. The most accomplished photographers know this and are always looking for ways to improve themselves. Professional photographers are always going on workshops and courses; they invest in their education. Professional photographic organisations arrange lots of courses, masterclasses and workshops every year for their members.

Yet many amateur photographers will spend many hundreds of pounds on cameras and kit, but next to nothing on themselves. And it's the photographer that's the most important part of the creative process. Cameras don't take pictures - people take pictures. You have to put aside time each week to learn, to practise techniques and challenge yourself with new ways of doing things? The more we practise and get it wrong the faster we learn and master. Effort in = results out, right?

The key to how long it will take to learn photography, is You! How much dedication and commitment do you put into upgrading your knowledge? How often do you get into action and practise? Do you shoot loads and hope for a good one? Are you afraid of getting it 'wrong' so you never actually get around to trying in the first place? Or do you take whatever time it takes and when something doesn't work out as expected, do you stop to find out why before trying it again?

The Aperture Photography Group offers a range of activities, including regular meetings, training workshops and outings. If you have a camera and would like to learn how to use it, or if you are a more experienced photographer and want to get involved, please contact us.

Meetings are held in the back room at The Saracen's Head in Little Brington at 8pm. The dates of our forthcoming meetings are:

- December: 5th and 19th
- January: 2nd, 16th and 30th
- February 13th and 27th

For more information, contact Neil Phillips on 01327 844182 or via email - neilp.apg@gmail.com

NOTE AND A TIMELY REMINDER

Hi all,

It has come to my attention that there still remains a large amount of people speeding in and out of the village along South View.

I've only lived in the village just over a year and unfortunately in October our beloved fluffy cat was hit by a car and sadly died. He was very popular around the village and he is greatly missed. In this incident the driver was not speeding and I'm very thankful to them for returning him home to myself and my partner.

But since the incident I am forever looking out of the window and seeing people speeding carelessly and putting our furry loved ones at risk.

Please remember this for future reference and continue to drive within the speed limit.

Many thanks.

Kelly Skillman

Christmas 2019 at Whilton Locks

There are several activities available this year at the Whilton Locks Garden Village from Ice skating and Breakfast with Santa to Wreath Making and Afternoon Tea with Elsa and Anna.



An Invitation for (Almost) Everyone

This year bring your family to the ice rink, it really is fun for all ages and abilities. The daring and skilled can show off their moves and for those who are a little apprehensive we have twin bladed skates and shoe ice grippers.

For the younger ones there are push-a-long penguins, polar bears and sit on bananas. For the very young we allow (clean please) pushchairs on the ice. We offer exclusive toddler sessions, exclusive sessions for SEN - with low numbers and low sounds AND FREE carer spaces, with SEN welcome at any other time too. The rink is wheelchair friendly at all times and the whole rink is available to hire for parties and groups.

For more information, visit www.wlgv.co.uk

ROUGHMOOR SPINNEY

By the time you read this issue, about 300 trees will have been planted across Daventry District. This is part of the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback initiative - a campaign to get one million people to join the fight against climate change, by pledging to plant a tree during National Tree Week. This week ends on 1st December, but of course there will be time to plant more through the winter.

National Tree Week is the UK's largest tree celebration, inspiring communities across the UK to plant thousands of trees every year since 1975. Marking the start of the tree planting season, the campaign has its roots in the response to the Dutch Elm Disease crisis of the 1960s, which wiped out more than 20 million of our most significant landscape trees. People came together to "Plant A Tree in '73", and every year since, organisations, professionals, schools and our amazing network of volunteer Tree Wardens have planted trees around the country to lay down roots for a tree-filled future.

Whilton Parish Council has joined the campaign and has received a pack of native trees, as below -



Crab apple



Field maple



Hazel

Most of these are destined for the Spinney and are being planted by volunteers and the Pre-School children.

Here we see Spinney volunteer Roy Haynes planting one of the small field maple saplings.





Can you make this jumper bright with
Christmas colours?

It's a Cracker!

Work out the answer for each set of brackets. Find the corresponding letters in the grid to spell out the punchline to each joke.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. Which Christmas carol is heard in the desert?

(30 - 15) (27 - 24), (4 - 2 - 1), (7 + 7 - 1), (10 - 5), (24 - 12)
 (50 - 25), (18 - 9 - 4)
 (27 - 21), (17 - 13 + 5 - 8), (18 - 9), (42 - 18 - 4), (27 - 15 - 4), (17 - 9 - 3 + 1),
 (47 - 26), (65 - 53)

2. What do snowmen sing on their birthdays?

(24 + 7 - 25), (9 + 9), (32 - 17 + 2 - 12), (14 - 9), (52 - 26), (16 - 11)
 (3 + 8 - 10) (25 - 15), (32 - 17), (36 - 24), (6 + 3 + 3), (17 + 8)
 (30 - 23), (29 - 14), (9 + 6), (19 - 8 - 7)
 (28 - 22), (17 + 8 - 20), (37 - 25), (8 + 9 - 5), (18 + 4 - 7), (32 - 10 + 1)

3. How does Santa take a photo?

(53 - 30), (18 - 9), (12 + 5 + 3), (30 - 6 - 16) (26 - 18), (7 + 7 - 5), (34 - 15)
 (19 - 6 + 3), (54 - 39), (36 - 24), (18 + 11 - 24), (7 + 8 - 14), (26 - 8), (69 - 54),
 (38 - 29), (18 + 6 + 2 - 22)

4. Why is Santa good at karate?

(26 + 4 - 22), (17 - 3 - 9) (19 - 11), (3 + 9 - 11), (30 - 11)
 (18 - 17) (18 + 4 - 16 - 4), (14 + 7 - 9), (16 - 7 - 8), (14 + 5 - 16), (30 - 19)
 (25 - 13 + 6 - 16), (15 + 6 - 16), (16 + 7 - 11), (18 + 7 - 3 - 2)

5. Who lives at the North Pole, makes toys and rides around in a pumpkin?

(18 + 3 - 18), (6 + 4 - 1), (17 - 7 + 4), (15 - 9 + 2 - 4), (16 - 11), (15 + 10 - 7),
 (6 + 5 - 6), (25 - 13), (24 - 8 - 10), (5 + 7 - 11)

Whilton Local History Society

In September we heard about **"The story of Whilton School."** The school was founded with money left by an old bachelor farmer, Jonathan Emery, who died in 1768. Jonathan made his will when he was blind and near death. His executor, Thomas Freeman, was *"to lay out and expend the sum of five hundred pounds in founding a Charity School for teaching poor children of the parish of Whilton aforesaid in such manner as he shall think fit and approve of."*

Yet it was 21 years later that the school's foundation document was signed in 1789. We heard about some of the reasons for delay and how the trustees finally purchased a barn, to be adapted as a schoolroom, and a farmhouse for the schoolmaster. These are now the Village Hall and the Old School House.

The first schoolmaster, Thomas Taylor, was lame; teaching may have been a seen as a suitable employment for him. His wife from Everdon could not write when they were married, but we hope that as infant school teacher she had learned a little more!

The school later became a National School, using the Madras System, to which Thomas and Comfort Taylor had to adjust late in life. We can choose how we interpret a letter sent to the National School Office in Northampton in 1834: *"The Revd John Rose desires me to inform you that "he thinks it would be time and labour lost to examine his schoolmaster and schoolmistress", and that therefore, you may spare yourself the trouble of exercising your office in the Parish of Whilton."*

The system of mutual tuition through monitors continued in Whilton through the 19th century. A few days before our meeting I had been contacted by a descendant of John Adams, a pupil here in the 19th century. As a result we were able to see pages from a mathematics book used here in the 1850s. The book impressed us with the high level of understanding required and we hope to find out more about this pupil. His teacher was Shelah Walker or possibly his successor Charles Branson who was here by 1861.

Because Whilton School was never purpose-built there was a constant stream of problems with facilities and poor heating. Major improvements were made in 1891-2 and the headmaster, James Dyer must have felt the school was now in better shape. He was used to working with children who were not accustomed to many home comforts. He would not have questioned the inefficiency of coal fires or the "pail closets" under a thatched roof in the playground. These outdoor "offices" probably did not change between this period and 1914, when they were described as: *"Boys: two seats in one, partially divided by a partition. Girls: two seats in one entirely undivided."* Facilities remained basic. Children carried water in from the pump as they did in their homes, and kettles were heated over the open fire.

The quality of education in the school varied dramatically over its life from the 1780s to the 1950s when it finally closed. There was a very difficult time from the late 1890s until the outbreak of the First World War. An 1895 report on Whilton School included these depressing words:

"Handwriting generally is very poor indeed... Spelling This subject is radically weak... Arithmetic Lamentable weakness is apparent in this subject."

By 1921 Hilda Osborne was the headmistress, who raised the standards and was very popular in Whilton. A 1932 inspection recorded: *"This is a good small school. The Head Mistress is to be congratulated on the results of her unstinted efforts to prepare the children for their work in later life."*

We were delighted to welcome Nigel Steele and Joyce Poole to our meeting. Joyce had been a pupil of Mrs Osborne in Whilton in the 1930s, and brought photos to share.

Despite her commitment to the pupils and the school, Hilda Osborne found the conditions were not congenial to learning or even surviving. Mrs Osborne wrote in June 1935, *"I was absent from School from 28th May to 7th June suffering from Tonsillitis caused by a bad smell. Several drains in Whilton want attending to."* In January 1936 she was still worried: *"There is a terrible smell of drains again in the school this morning."*

Apart from the awful smells of open drains in the road outside, she had to contend with cold and damp indoors. The winter time was the worst. Mrs Osborne was constantly recording temperatures, and complaining, but to little avail, as her 1931 log reveals:

"12 Jan. No fires going Temp 42° large room, 39° Infants. Walls wet. Took all first lesson to get a glimmer of fire. No real fire until 11 a.m. in large room, not much in Infants. Spoke to Caretaker in afternoon, told her how many times I have had to re-start fires and have not complained but that if rooms were cold as they were today children's parents would complain. She said "I do not think so, what I think is that it is simply a bit of fuss."



Mrs Osborne and pupils on a school outing.

Mrs Osborne continued until her retirement in 1942, having coped with the traumas of evacuee children, scarlet fever and lack of fuel.

The post war years saw decline in numbers, expectations were higher and Whilton School was not comfortable. The school finally closed in 1955.

Our November Local History meeting was:

“An evening with Randolph Skipwith, Victorian Rector of Whilton.”

We were visited by Roger Toone in the guise of the Rector, who told us his opinions of Whilton and his experiences here. As the 18th child of a baronet he had a privileged upbringing, being educated at Rugby and Cambridge. He brought new impetus and fresh ideas to the community of Whilton.

On being questioned he gave us his opinion of the old church he found here. It had been altered in the 18th century and was not to Randolph's taste. He disapproved of the choir galleries, the high-backed pews and the position of the old font. It was he who organized the enlargement and complete refurbishment of St Andrew's, so that the church we know today is mostly the result of his alterations and stands as his memorial in Whilton.

He described his friendship with the musical Dyer family, who provided teaching at the school and training of Whilton children in music and performance. The Rector and his family joined concerts given in the schoolroom. At one concert in 1877 father and son, James and William Dyer gave a pianoforte duet, playing the overture to “Figaro” by Mozart and followed it later in the programme with a piano and violin duet of Mozart's Sonata No. 4. The Rector's wife and her brother also performed as singers.

Randolph's introduction of Penny Readings enabled local people to have experience of public speaking and literature. Randolph himself particularly liked brass band music and used every opportunity to have a band to accompany processions and events, such as dancing on the Rectory lawn. In the 1860s he arranged elaborate weekday holidays to celebrate harvest in Whilton. These involved days of preparations by the whole population, making floral decorations for the church and road, practising singing and preparing food and a refreshment tent in Wadd Close. Visiting clergy joined Randolph in their robes to process from school to church to tent, accompanied by a brass band, which later enabled dancing in the lighted tent. This was *“kept up with spirit until ten o'clock when the band struck up “God save the Queen”, and all dispersed quietly homewards, delighted with their holiday.”*

He encouraged villagers to save “for a rainy day” through the Friendly Society he started. The members enjoyed good dinners and toasting “Her Majesty”, although the very poorest may not have enjoyed such jollity. His fellow Guardian of the Poor said “his geniality was expressed in his countenance” and that he was kind to the paupers who had to approach him.

We met Randolph in his heyday in 1881 after the church restoration, but he was still to have another 15 years as Rector here, as he retired in 1896.

The AGM of Whilton Local History Society will be held on
Friday, 17th January 2020 at 7.30 p.m.
The meeting will be accompanied by a Roman meal.

This meeting is for members only. The annual subscription is £10. If you wish to join the society and attend this meeting, please contact one of the following by Friday 10th January:

Anthea Hiscock 843319
Marian Seal 844835
Brian Melling 844258

**Memory of Gill McLeish
after 10 years**

Moving here from Scotland, Gill lived initially at Field View in Wadd Close Lane with husband Ally, and children Amy and Pete; they later moved to Sira on Main Street. She was an important part of the lives of her friends and we shared many happy times together.



Sadly, she died after illness 10 years ago. To commemorate the occasion and share memories, several friends recently met over lunch. We looked at old photographs of holidays and events we had enjoyed over the years with Gill and we toasted her memory. We marked the anniversary by having St Andrews lit on Saturday 9 November.

Alison James and Jane Bunce

PRE-SCHOOL

In November a number of villagers visited the Pre-School for an open coffee morning to mark Children in Need day. It was good to see the children and join in their activities including singing nursery rhymes. Nice to forge links and support this group and we hope to be invited back in the future. A good time was had by all.

If you are interested in becoming involved, let the editors know.

BRINGTON AND WHILTON PRE-SCHOOL

The children have started this term learning about Winter festivals and celebrations starting with Diwali, Halloween and Fireworks Night.

The children learnt all about Remembrance Day, holding a minutes silence, making their own poppies into a wreath and taking it to the memorial plaque in the village



The Pre-School wreath beside the Reynolds memorial stone



Children in Need morning

Pre-school invited members of Whilton village to join us for a coffee morning to help raise money for Children in Need and to meet all the children. The children dressed in fancy dress and sang songs, played games and enjoyed meeting everyone who came to support us. We raised £35. Thank you .

We hope to have an open morning once every term. The next date will be confirmed early next year. This will be a lovely morning for the children to talk, read and interact with members of the village and we hope to make it a regular event.

Our Christmas performance at the church will be on Wednesday 18th December at 10.30 am. Everyone welcome.

If you are interested in coming to join in with our open morning in the new year or if you have a child who is between 2-4 years old and are looking for a small nurturing pre-school for your child, please email Trisha at managerbandwpreschool@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM WHILTON AND BUCKBY LOCKS ASSOCIATION

2019 has marked a great deal of work along this part of the canal. Our hard-working, loyal and jolly band of volunteers (plus the team who came from Sainsbury's on a corporate day out) have generously devoted a total of 411.75 hours to painting, litter picking, gardening, weeding, mowing, strimming, hedge-cutting and general good works on the Whilton & Buckby Lock Flight during 2019 (plus our own extra bits like brush cleaning and secretarial work). Yet again, the flight looks cared for, smart and tidy - a fact which is often mentioned by boaters we talk to. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2020.

Besides the planting and painting, our group has also done the annual hedge cuts between Top Lock and Bridge 12 and near Lock 8, and it won't be long before we get round to this again. Whilst mentioning Bridge 12, one side of the bridge (which was leaning inwards) has been renewed by the Trust, thus making it safe. It took most of the summer, but is a great improvement.

The maintenance group of volunteers has been severely hampered by the up-and-down weather this summer, with long stretches where the wooden lock gates have been too wet to paint. However, we have managed to work on most of the locks and even if they have not been totally refurbished they do at least look cared for. We hope to complete the whole flight by the end of the season.

Our regular litter picker has done a fabulous job, sometimes walking the whole flight and picking up only small amounts of litter. Talking to boaters, they are impressed by how the flight is looked after and how little litter is evident. Unfortunately, dog poo remains a problem here and there, but that is no different from elsewhere.

With regard to the towpath improvements, we have also just received an email from the Trust to say they are planning to borrow a boat belonging to the Buckingham Canal Society to enable our plans for the path to go ahead. As the boat is currently in London, we don't know when it will 'come home' for onward transfer to us but at least that sounds a bit more optimistic. The crane boat can deliver aggregate and lift it off as the spreading volunteers work along the path.

Those members who met for the meal at the New Inn had a thoroughly enjoyable evening tossing over all kinds of subjects of conversation and experiences, during which we learned that the local kingfisher had been seen, fairly close up, so it is nice to know it is still around. On the membership front, we are sad to report the death of Margaret Watson of Buckby Wharf, who was a long-standing member and supporter of WBLA.

With thanks to Sue and Geoff Woodward for this information from the Association.

www.wbla.org.uk/

Notice has been given as follows:

POLITE NOTICE

There will be the usual private family firework party at midnight on New Years Eve 2019/2020 in Brington Lane, the Police will be made aware.

The Whilton Newsletter is published quarterly and circulated free to every household within the parish boundary. The costs are met by the Parish Council.

The Newsletter is delivered by volunteers who willingly give up their time to bring this to your door.

The Editors are:

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- ❖ The Editors welcome material for the Newsletter. If possible, please send your contribution by e-mail. If you do not have a computer, the editors will be happy to type handwritten articles for you.
- ❖ The next issue will be the Spring Edition, covering March to May 2020. The last date for contributions will be Wednesday, 20th February 2019.

The Newsletter is published quarterly, but Whilton also has a website: www.whilton-village.net. It has latest news and updates on parish events.

Other websites with information about events in Whilton include:

Whilton Parish Council: www.parish-council.com/whilton

Brington & Whilton Pre-school:

www.bringtonandwhiltonpreschool.org.uk/

Whilton Local History Society: <https://whiltonlhs.org>

Whilton Locks Garden Village: www.wlgv.co.uk

Regular weekly events

- BRINGTON AND WHILTON PRE-SCHOOL in the Village Hall:
Term time: Mon, Wed, 9.30 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Fri. 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- BELL RINGING at the Church: Mon: 7.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
For further information please contact Justin Baker 844263 or Janet Bowers 842851
- WHILTON WARBLERS CHOIR in the Church: Term time: Tues, 7.30 p.m.
- THE APERTURE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP usually meets fortnightly in the Saracen's Head, Little Brington at 8 p.m. For details contact Neil Phillips on 844182 or neil.apg@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN WHILTON
Winter 2019-2020

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Sun	1 Dec	10.30 a.m.	East Haddon Church	Benefice Communion
Wed	4 Dec	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association Christmas Social
Fri	6 Dec	7.30 p.m.	Church	Whilton Warblers Christmas Concert
Sat	7 Dec	10 a.m.	Meet at The Green	Village Litter Pick
Sun	8 Dec	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Tues	10 Dec	12.30 for 1 p.m.	Village Hall	Social Lunch
Sat	14 Dec	11 am	Church	Christmas Tree Festival Coffee Morning
Sun	15 Dec	6 p.m.	Church	Carol Service
Tues	17 Dec	Evening	Village	Whilton Carol Singers
Wed	18 Dec	10.30 a.m.	Church	Pre-School carols and Nativity
Wed Christmas Day	25 Dec	9.15 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
2020				
Sun	5 Jan	10.30 a.m.	Harlestone Church	Benefice Communion
Wed	8 Jan	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Parish Council meeting
Sun	12 Jan	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Fri	17 Jan	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Local History Society Roman meal and AGM.
Sun	26 Jan	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion
Sun	2 Feb	10.30 a.m.	Norton Church	Benefice Communion
Wed	5 Feb	7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	Gardeners Association AGM
Sun	9 Feb	11 a.m.	Church	Worship for All
Sun	23 Feb	6 p.m.	Church	Evening Communion

Regular events: please see previous page